

Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee

Summary Minutes

May 20, 2004

Meeting Time 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Meeting Location:

**Metering Building, Second Floor Conference Room
SPU Operations Control Center
2700 Airport Way South
Seattle, WA**

Members and Alternates Present: Bruce Bachen (SPU), Frank Urabeck (Trout Unlimited), Sam Wright (WA Trout), Steve Foley (WDFW), Hans Berge (KC), Tim Romanski (USFWS), Chuck Wischman and Bill McKay (PSA), Phyllis Meyers (NMFS), Michael Kern (LLTK), Dennis Moore (MIT), and Bill Robinson

Other Participants: Brodie Antipa, Dave Seiler, Chuck Johnson, Joan Thomas (WDFW), and Judith Noble and Paul Faulds (SPU)

I) Call to order

Bruce Bachen called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

II) Approval of agenda

Members unanimously approved the revised agenda.

III) Meeting minutes review and approval from April 15, 2004

The AFC unanimously approved the meeting minutes from February 19, 2004 following some minor changes requested by Brodie on the fry release numbers.

IV) Interim mitigation program for coho, chinook and steelhead

Bruce informed members that Rand Little (SPU) would be joining the meeting to talk about the process the Instream Flow Commission (IFC) used to develop study questions for their research projects.

IFC chinook research

Rand described the process the IFC went through to develop study questions for a list of supplemental study topics in the Cedar River Instream Flow Agreement. He provided background material on the agreement and a variety of documents that outlined the development and prioritization criteria.

V) Sockeye Hatchery Program

SEIS Worst case analysis workshop discussion

Judith provided members with a rough summary of the workshop results.

Co-manager sockeye return forecast and harvest monitoring plans

Steve reported the return estimate for Lake Washington is 485,000 (fry based forecast) and comanagers would start counting at the Locks on June 12th.

Steve said if there is a fishery there will be plenty of folks monitoring the harvest. Monitoring will include sampling otoliths for age and hatchery contribution. There will be a lot of coverage at the boat launches and a number of flights over the lake. Frank asked if there are other projects collecting data during that time period. Steve noted the project by Tom Quinn and Jenny Newell and said they would inform the public about

potential tagged fish. Chuck J. said the goal of WDFW was to collect about 2,000 otoliths and have them read in a couple months after the fishery.

Establish egg take goal for interim hatchery in 2004

Based on the return forecast Brodie stated WDFW recommends setting the egg take at 17.2 million. There were no objections from AFC members. Brodie noted the egg take protocols will be published in weir protocols and should be available at the next meeting.

Schedule for development and approval of 2004 weir protocols

Bruce asked WDFW to try and have the weir report completed by the July AFC meeting.

Weir Permitting for 2004

Brodie thought that renewal of the weir permit was proceeding ahead of schedule. Hans reiterated his support for a two-year permit and volunteered to stay involved in the permit process.

Comparison of Cedar River sockeye escapement estimates using two methods

Dave S. said he and Steve created a table that compares the two methods. Some years the estimates are close and some years they are not. He noted the current method (subtraction method) was used first developed for low returns because the area under the curve uses a regression in which a 100,000 or more fish are needed.

Joan asked Bruce about securing the hatchery water supply. She noted that with a good return this year there are IHN concerns. Bruce said the EIS appeal is hampering efforts to secure the water supply and major changes are not possible this year.

VI) Public comment

There were no public comments.

VII) Information and discussion items

Update on PIT tag reader project, Ballard Locks

Paul noted that according to the Army Corps of Engineers all the PIT tag equipment was assembled and the antennas would be installed between June 1 and June 7.

Status of final 2002 and draft 2003 Cedar River Sockeye Fry Production Evaluation Reports

Dave S. he had discussed the report status with Paul earlier in the meeting and noted the final report for 2002 was headed to Jim Scott. Frank asked about this years Cedar River fry production and Dave S. replied that the preliminary projection has been reduced from 40 million to 39 million.

Cedar River steelhead redd counts to date

Steve said he didn't have an up to date redd count, but the run should be a little better than last year and close to 50 steelhead.

VIII) Adjourn 1:00

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.